production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, plant protection chemicals and equipments, weedicides, supply of rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacteria, distribution of gypsum/ pyrite/liming/dolomite, sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes to encourage farmers to grow pulses on a large scale.

Horticulture Mission in Andhra Pradesh

578. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount provided under the National Horticulture Mission to Andhra Pradesh during the Tenth Five Year Plan, year-wise;

(b) whether any potential belt has been identified in the State to cover the same under the Mission;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have got any concrete plans for production and marketing of horticulture products since the Mission is going to be extended upto the next Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) which was launched during 2005-06, an Action Plan for Rs. 87.18 crore has been approved for the State of Andhra Pradesh for taking up various activities. During the current year an amount of Rs. 43.20 crore has been released to the State. Funds for NHM are allocated by the Planning Commission on year to year basis. The allocations of Andhra Pradesh during 2006-07 has not yet been finalized.

(b) and (c) Potential belts have been identified for the holistic development of ten crops of Mango, Sweet Orange, Sapota, Pomogranate, Banana, Papaya, Cashew, Loose Flowers, Coriander and Turmeric, in twelve districts of Srikakulam, West Godavari, Guntur, Prakasam, Ananthapur, Kadapa, Kurnool, Mahaboobnagar, Ranga Reddy, Nalgonda, Khammam and Nizamabad, in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) and (e) The National Horticulture Mission (NHM) envisage an end

to end approach having backward and forward linkages, covering production, post harvest management and marketing, with the active participation of all the stake holders. The Annual Action Plan in this regard is prepared by the State Horticulture Mission Societies and approved by the Executive Committee of NHM duly ensuring end to end linkages. Setting up of 490 markets have been envisaged during the Tenth Plan.

Collection of Royalty by Monsanto

579. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the multinational bio-technological company Monsanto is collecting exorbitant royalty from farmers in our country;

(b) whether the royalty charged by the company is much higher than its charges in the U.S.;

(c) if so, whether complaints have also been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) M/s. Mahyco Monsanto Biotech (India) Ltd. And its sub-licencee companies are reportedly charging Rs. 1250/- as trait value for 450 gms. of Bt. cotton hybrid seeds.

(c) and (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh and President, Andhra Pradesh Ryotu Sangam, Hyderabad have filed complaints against M/s Mahyco Monsanto Biotech (India) Ltd. Before the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission for charging exorbitant trait value on Bt. Cotton hybrid seeds. The MRTP Commission has ordered a preliminary investigation into the alleged monopolistic/restrictive and unfair trade practices of the Company.

Research on wheat and rice production

580. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any periodic research in agriculture has been conducted to increase agriculture production of wheat and rice in the country;